

FORT MYER MILITARY COMMUNITY RETIREE COUNCIL  
C/O RETIREMENT SERVICES OFFICE  
FORT MYER, VIRGINIA 22211-1199

IMNE-MY-HR

23 November 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Fort Myer Military Community (FMMC) Quarterly Retiree Council Meeting Minutes

1. The Fort Myer Military Community Retiree quarterly council meeting was on Thursday, 18 November 2004, at Fort Myer, VA. The meeting convened at 1230 hours. The meeting was co-chaired by COL (R) Frank Cohn and SGM (R) Robert Brown. The Council and Residents recited the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by all attendees introducing themselves.

2. Attendees:

a. Members Present:

COL Cohn, Frank, (USA Ret.), Co-Chairperson  
SGM Brown, Robert L. Jr. (USA Ret.), Co-Chairperson  
COL Greenfield Arlene F., (USA Ret.)  
COL Grier, Reginald C., (USA Ret.)  
COL Sievers, Ralph, (USA Ret.)  
LTC Strauss, George H., (USA Ret.)  
MAJ Johnson, Andrew C., (USA Ret.)  
SGM McCoy, Charles E., (USA Ret.)  
MSG Schiebel, David W., (USA Ret.)  
SFC Medley, Walter D. Jr., (USA Ret.)  
SFC Wright, Joyce A., (USA Ret.)  
SFC Wright, Luke, (USA Ret.)  
Mrs. Werth, Hedy  
Mrs. Murray, Joyce A.  
Mrs. Vance, Evelyn

b. Members Absent:

LTC Lemlich, Benjamin R., (USA Ret.)  
MSG Petersen, Earl A., (USA Ret.)

SUBJECT: Fort Myer Military Community (FMMC) Quarterly Retiree Council Meeting Minutes

c. Other Present:

LTC Coots, Norwell V., Cdr. Radar Clinic  
CPT Wenzlich, Donald CAS  
SFC Johnson, Rhodes S., NCOIC, CAS  
Mr. Miller, James A., MPD Chief  
Mr. Washington, Kenneth J., Jr., CAS Chief  
Ms. Johnson, Earnestine, Retirement Services Officer  
Mrs. McCoy, Mitsuko

3. Opening Remarks: COL Cohn

a. The Council members were given a briefing by LTC Coots the Commander of Raider Clinic. LTC Coots discussed the problem the medical community was experiencing as they tried to manage the flu vaccine shortage. He covered the genesis of the problem, which had priority for the vaccine, and procedures for receiving the vaccine. As of 18 November the clinic had used 1000 of the 3500 shots available. Around the 25/26 of November a decision will be made to possibly open the shots up the others who may need them. LTC Coots also covered preventive measures that could be taken such as washing hands and avoiding hand shakes as much as possible. He provided the council with a great deal of information on the subject.

b. The Council members were given a briefing by CPT Wenzlick from Casualty and Mortuary Affairs. He covered the Retiree Casualty Assistance Officer volunteer program. The program had been approved by DA and the pilot program would handle around the twenty-five to thirty cases. The next training session was scheduled for 8 December 2004 at 0830 in Building 205. COL (R) Greer had just completed a case and shared his experience with the group. The response from the council was positive.

c. Other business included:

(1) The minutes from the previous council meeting was approved.

(2) There was a concern raised about the cost of gas on the installation.

(3) There was a concern raised about the price challenge program at the post exchange being stopped.

(4) The council inquired about having tickets for more events that occur on or off the installation.

SUBJECT: Fort Myer Military Community (FMMC) Quarterly Retiree Council Meeting Minutes

4. Questions to the FMMC Garrison Commander's representative: Would like to someone besides the Adjutant to represent the Garrison Commander at the meeting. The commander was TDY this week. COL Allmon has agreed to attend every council meeting he can.

5. Committee Reports:

a. Services:

(1) The AFAP was well attended.

(2) The issue was raised concerning the value of meeting at the AFRH/W. There is very little the council can do to impact or influence the program. An assessment needs to be made of how we can provide a service.

b. Medical:

(1) Spoke with the patient representative at Dewitt and was informed of a Medical Council Meeting on 29 November 2004 at 1030 at the Fort Belvoir Education Center. There will be a great deal of information sharing in that forum.

(2) Flu Shot Hotline is (703) 805-0506. You will get a recording but the information that's provided is very helpful.

(3) There needs to be more information put out about the TRICARE Transition Class at age 65. It is important for retirees to understand the difference between Part A and Part B (TRICARE for Life). There are a number of significant changes in the entitlements.

(4) There is a great deal of medical information on the Dewitt web page. Please use it as a reference. It could save you time when dealing with hospital issues.

c. Legislative:

(1) There will be a phase out over the next 3 ½ years of Survivor Benefit Program (SBP) reduction. From the current 35% in 6 month intervals to the full 55% of military retired pay for the surviving spouse. Retirees will no longer have to pay extra premiums, Supplemental SBP, to obtain the maximum of 55%. There is an open enrollment period from October 2005 to September 2006. The next issue of the Army Echoes will provide full details.

(2) There will be full concurrent receipt of military retired pay for 100% service connected disability for about 14,000 retirees. Excluded were 30,000 100% disabled retirees classified by the DVA as "employable not service connected". However this latter group will remain part of the front loaded 10 year phase in schedule for no-combat related VA compensation at 50% or higher. Effective date will be January 2005.

(3) Permanent ID cards will be issued for spouses and widows over age 75.

d. Communications:

(1) Thanks for all the support for the RAD.

(2) Would like to get as much information and articles as possible for the Retirees Bulletin in order to have the first draft ready by 1 December. Please get your information in now. This includes statement from the Installation Commander.

6. Old Business:

a. Creating a retirement web page on the Fort Myer site is ongoing.

b. The renovation in the Retirement Services Office is completed. We are in the process of buying furniture.

c. Retiree Casualty Assistance Officers have been approved and the first case completed by COL (R) Greer.

7. New Business: None.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1426 hours. The next meeting time and location is 3 February 2005.

ROBERT L. BROWN JR.  
SGM, USA Retired  
Co-Chairperson, Retiree Council

FRANK COHN  
Colonel, USA Retired  
Co-Chairperson, Retiree Council